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DATEBOOK

Museum Symposium On Japan and French Impressionism

Humanities West will present a two-day symposium titled "Paris in Japan, 1880-1930: Tokyo Encounters Impressionism," January 13-14 at the Asian Art Museum. Rand Castile, director of the museum, will moderate a program of lectures and performances exploring the influence of European Impressionist artists on Japanese intellectuals and artists at the turn of the century.

Tickets are available through the Performing Arts Ticket Service. For more information, contact Humanities West at 580 Funston Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Sunset

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How France affected Japan— as seen from San Francisco

The chance to drop everything and to immerse yourself in a favorite period of

history is what makes Humanities West's programs so popular. For the program's 10th offering, the topic is "Paris in Japan: 1880-1930, Tokyo Encounters Impressionism." On January 13 and 14, you can learn how French culture influenced Japanese art, music, and literature.

Activities begin Friday evening at cosponsoring Asian Art Museum, in Golden Gate Park, with two lectures and a reception of sake and Japanese delicacies.

On Saturday, the seminar then moves to the thousand-seat Herbst Theater at Civic Center (a response to recent sold-out performances). Here, participants attend lectures on painting and philosophy, and also enjoy a poetry reading, dance performance, and piano recital. The program closes with a panel discussion on why the Japanese are collecting Impressionist art today and how this affects the international art market.

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'Paris in Japan' reflects on French connection in art

EXAMINER STAFF REPORT

A TWO-DAY symposium on the influence of impressionism on Japanese intellectuals and artists will be held Friday and Saturday at the Asian Art Museum.

The title is "Paris in Japan, 1880-1930: Tokyo Encounters Impressionism." The sponsor is Humanities West. The moderator is Rand Castille, director of the museum, who notes that the symposium is "very timely," and suggests that it may offer a better understanding of contemporary Japan.

"The period we're discussing is a period of high transition," says Castille, "and heaven knows Japan is experiencing a similar period right now."

The symposium speakers, whom Castille characterizes as

"spectacular," include Hiroaki Sato, who is, says Castille, a foremost translator of Japanese and "universally recognized as one of the great poets in Japan." Also scheduled to speak are Tom Rimer and Gerald Bolas, the new director of the Portland Art Museum, which recently presented an exhibition of "Paris in Japan" that "inspired the symposium," according to Castille.

In addition to the lectures, the symposium will include a dance performance by Satoru Shimazaki.

The opening session is at 8 p.m. Friday; the opening lecture, by Ellen Conant, is on 19th century Japan. The symposium continues Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. Tickets, which range from \$25 to \$75, are available through the Performing Arts Ticket Service. For information, call Humanities West, 387-8780.